

ROUTING			
TO:	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
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	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
REMARKS:			
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(See inside cover)

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CONTROL NO. 7-15768/82  
 NPIC/IEG (7/82)  
 13 July 1982  
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**SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES EQUIPMENT UPGRADE**  
**TANRYKULULAR USSR**

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: FIRST IDENTIFICATION OF BMD VARIANTS AND AN AIRDROPPABLE FUEL SERVICE VEHICLE IN A SOVIET AIRBORNE DIVISION WITHIN THE USSR.
2. (S/D) REMARKS: THE BMD M-1981/2, BMD M-1979, AND A NEW GAZ-66B AIRDROPPABLE FUEL SERVICE VEHICLE WERE CONFIRMED IN THE 104TH GUARDS AIRBORNE DIVISION (GAD) [REDACTED] THIS IS THE FIRST IDENTIFICATION OF EITHER MODIFIED BMD IN A SOVIET AIRBORNE DIVISION IN THE USSR, AND THE FIRST IDENTIFICATION ON SATELLITE IMAGERY OF THE GAZ-66B FUEL SERVICE VEHICLE. EQUIPMENT AT TANRYKULULAR ARMY BKS AL 1 INCLUDES FIVE BMD M-1981/2, ONE BMD M-1979, AND ONE GAZ-66B AIRDROPPABLE FUEL SERVICE VEHICLE. IN ADDITION, THREE BMD M-1979 AND ONE PROBABLE BMD M-1979 WERE AT KIROVABAD ARMY BKS NW AL 3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. TANRYKULULAR IS THE 104TH GAD TRAINING BASE AND KIROVABAD AL 3 HOUSES AN AIRBORNE REGIMENT OF THE 104TH.

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(S/D) THE BMD M-1981/2 IS A VARIANT OF THE STANDARD BMD USED BY SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES. ALTHOUGH SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO THE STANDARD BMD, IT DIFFERS IN SEVERAL WAYS. THE M-1981/2 HAS SIX ROAD WHEELS ON EACH SIDE OF THE CHASSIS INSTEAD OF FIVE. IT HAS AN APPROXIMATELY [REDACTED] TWO-MAN TURRET INSTEAD OF [REDACTED] ONE-MAN TURRET. THE MAIN WEAPON IS LONGER THAN THE 73MM SMOOTH-BORE GUN ON THE STANDARD BMD. THE BMD M-1981/2 WAS FIRST IDENTIFIED AT RIGA TRAINING AREA 1 [REDACTED] IN THE BALTIC MILITARY DISTRICT (MD) IN MARCH 1981. IT WAS LATER IDENTIFIED WITH THE AIR ASSAULT UNIT AT VLADIMIR VOLYNSKIY HQ GMRD/ARMY BKS AL 1/TA 1 [REDACTED] IN THE CARPATHIAN MD AND WITH SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN AT KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD [REDACTED] AND BAGRAM AIRFIELD ([REDACTED])

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(S/D) THE BMD M-1979 HAS THE SAME SIX ROAD-WHEEL CHASSIS AS THE M-1981/2, BUT DOES NOT HAVE A TURRET OR GUN. IT HAS BEEN SEEN WITH THE SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN AND WITH THE AIR ASSAULT UNITS WITHIN THE USSR SINCE EARLY 1980.

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3. (S) , COORDINATES 40-44-02N 046-51-45E.

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